

## Gender equality and diversity in practice: methodological and theoretical inquires to the forest sector(s)

Panel 12		
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*Abstract Panel 12 – Gender equality and diversity in practice: methodological and theoretical inquires to the forest sector(s).*

Over the last decade, issues of gender and diversity within the forest sector have climbed the agenda of many countries and regions across Europe, but also in other areas across the globe. Gender equality is highlighted as a crucial aspect of sustainability and sustainable development in the SDGs of Agenda 2030. Looking at national, regional and local level, research indicates that motivations and drivers behind policies, initiatives and measures for gender equality and diversity, are often (constituted and) shaped by various contextual and institutional factors and relations. Central to this articulation and discursive processes are relations of gender (in)equality, gender and the specific political and normative space that this provides within different settings. As one of the main practices, gender mainstreaming constitutes a specific example where these relations are materialised within particular policy and organisational practices. The panel on gender equality and diversity in forest sectors invites methodological and theoretical inquiries into gender “at work” and implementation of relevant policies. It encourages scholars and practitioners to discuss present policies affecting the perceptions of and experiences with gender in forest sectors, their organizational implications and challenges. This focus adds complexity to practices and initiatives of gender equality and diversity, opens up for comparative inquiries, and provides new empirical, methodological and theoretical insights. A critical engagement with issues of power in relation to gender, and gender equality, aims to explore the conditions of transformative or subaltern resistance and spaces within the forest sphere. The panel combines empirical and theoretical contributions from northern (Sweden) and central/eastern (Danube region) Europe. On this basis, the panel discuss the present and future research challenges in relation to gender and gender (in)equality – and its potential implications on, and contribution to the development of the forest sector(s).